

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claim 10.

1. (Currently Amended) An oxide superconducting wire comprising:  
a plurality of oxide superconductors, each oxide superconductor made of at least one filament, and each of said plurality of oxide superconductors being physically separate and not in direct physical contact with others of said plurality of oxide superconductors;

a ceramic layer enclosing each of said plurality of oxide superconductors, such that at least a group of oxide superconductors is enclosed within a contiguous ceramic region of said ceramic layer, and each oxide semiconductor within said group is individually enclosed by said ceramic region, said ceramic layer becoming non-conducting at an operational temperature of said oxide superconductors; and

a metal sheath directly coating said ceramic layer; and  
~~wherein said oxide superconductors are divided into a plurality of filaments.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 1, wherein said oxide superconductors are configured to spirally extend around the central axis of said oxide superconducting wire.

4. (Previously Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 1, wherein said ceramic layer contains an oxide including at least one kind selected from the group consisting of bismuth, lead, strontium, calcium, barium, titanium, niobium, molybdenum, tantalum, tungsten, vanadium, zirconium, copper and silver.

5. (Previously Amended) The oxide superconducting wire provided in one of the claims 1 wherein said oxide superconductors are bismuth-based superconductors.

6. (Previously Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 4, wherein said ceramic layer contains an oxide including an alkali earth metal and copper.

7. (Previously Amended) The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 1, wherein said metal sheath include at least one kind selected from the group consisting of silver, copper, manganese, magnesium, antimony, iron, chromium, and nickel.

8. (Currently Amended) An oxide superconducting wire comprising:  
a plurality of filaments, each filament formed of an oxide superconductor;  
a ceramic layer formed by extrusion, said ceramic layer enclosing said oxide superconductors and becoming non-conducting at an operating temperature of said oxide superconductors; wherein said ceramic layer encloses and is in contact with each of said plurality of filaments; and;  
a metal sheath encasing said ceramic layer.

9. (Currently Amended)- An oxide superconducting wire comprising:  
a plurality of oxide superconductors, each oxide superconductor made of  
at least one filament;  
a ceramic layer enclosing each of said plurality of oxide superconductors,  
such that at least a group of oxide superconductors is enclosed within a contiguous  
ceramic region of said ceramic layer, and each oxide superconductor within said group  
is individually enclosed by said ceramic region, each of said plurality of oxide  
superconductors being physically separate and not in direct physical contact with  
others of said plurality of oxide superconductors, said ceramic layer becoming non-  
conducting at an operational temperature of said oxide superconductors;  
~~The oxide superconducting wire as defined in claim 8, wherein a silver-~~  
~~based sheath is interposed between each of said plurality of oxide superconductors and~~  
~~said ceramic layer;~~ and  
a metal sheath directly coating said ceramic layer.

Claims 10-23 (Cancelled).